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Swanton Veterans Day Program and National Recognition

SWANTON, OH- The World War One Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, in partnership with The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, designated “*The Spirit of the American Doughboy*” statute in the Village of Swanton’s Memorial Park as a WWI Centennial Memorial. The memorials are in 28 different states and each received \$2,000 matching grant funds towards the restoration and maintenance of these memorials through 100 Cities/100 Memorials.

The 100 Cities/100 Memorials was created to help draw attention to WWI memorials across the United States and enables all of America to take part in the WWI Centennial Commemoration. The profound impact of the war moved citizens in places across the United States to commemorate both the national and local sacrifices from the conflict through monuments, buildings, plaques, parks, groves, even roads and highways. Many of these WWI memorials have deteriorated due to the ravages of time, exposure to the elements, neglect and even vandalism. The funds will be used to conserve, restore or improve these memorials. More important, the program is designed to raise community awareness of those who served, and provides a tangible connection to the profound impact this war had on local towns and cities, securing an important place in military history.

The “*Spirit of the American Doughboy*” is a prized landmark in the Village of Swanton. The statue was a gift from the French people, the only one donated to a municipality in the United States by the Republic of France, in gratitude for the sacrifice of Swanton during World War I. Swanton had an exceptional number of victims from the conflict of The Great War. It has been said that 250 men from Swanton served in The Great War and of those doughboys, 14 men did not return. The statue in Swanton is known to be one of E.M. Viquesney’s first statues.

The Village of Swanton will officially recognize this designation at the annual Veterans Day Program held at Swanton High School on November 9, 2018. The ceremony begins at 9:45 a.m. and will run until 11:00 a.m.

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